(f) As in (a) to (d) above.

(g) The above mentioned schemes are expected to be continued in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Eleventh Plan is yet to be finalized by the Planning Commission.

**Faulty agricultural policy**

†1388. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been no increase in agricultural production and it has rather decreased due to faulty agricultural policy in the last four years in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the quantum of agricultural export as compared to total export has been decreasing in these last four years;

(c) whether it is a fact that States where priority has been given to commercial crops, the burden of debt has increased on farmers and they have committed suicides there; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the process of modernization has been nil in agricultural technology, if so, the efforts being made by Government in this direction and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A Statment showing the agriculture production and exports during the last 4 years is enclosed (*See* below). The production of foodgrains, sugarcane and cotton shows an increasing trend since 2005-06. The share of agricultural export to total export is decreasing during last four years.

(c) The National Sample Survey Organization in its 59th Round (January to December, 2003) conducted a survey relating to farmer household. As per its findings, out of 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million (48.6%) were reported to be indebted. The prevalence of indebtedness among farmer households was highest in Andhra Pradesh ( 82%) followed by Tamil Nadu (74.5%), Punjab (65.4%), Kerala (64.4%), Karnataka (61.6%) and Maharashtra (54.8%). So far as suicide by farmers is concerned, broadly the reasons for suicide are crop failure, indebtedness and drought, social and economic insecurity.

(d) It is not true that the process of modernization has been nil in agricultural technology. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is focusing on scaling up the production of breeder, foundation and certified seeds. High yielding varieties and hybrids in crops with improved quality and disease resistance are continuously developed. Appropriate strategies are developed for different agro-climate zones to overcome the yield gaps. Water conservation and ground water management for rainfed areas is given much more focused attention. Reforms are undertaken in agricultural education for improving quality and standards because of emerging challenges of making Indian agriculture not only sustainable but also

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

internationally competitive. Extension system is revitalized to bridge the knowledge gap between technologies in shelf and farmers through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). The Government has approved establishment of KVK in each of the 589 rural districts of the country. For transferring research results to the Government of India is extending support to State extension programmes to carry out extension reforms. It aims at providing a decentralized and demand driven extension system by way of new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination in the form of an Agricultural Technology Managetnent Agency (ATMA) at district level.

***Statement***

*Details showing the agriculture production and exports during the last 4 years*

*(Million Tones)*

| **Part-(a)** | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Foodgrains Production | 213.19 | 198.36 | 208.60 | 216.13 |
| Oilseeds | 25.19 | 24.35 | 27.98 | 23.88 |
| Sugarcane | 233.86 | 237.09 | 281. 17 | 345.31 |
| Cotton# | 13.73 | 16.43 | 18.50 | 22.70 |
| **Part-(b)** | | | | |
| Total Agriculture Export (Rs. in Crore) | 37266.52 | 41602.65 | 49215.96 | 61194.22 |
| Percentage to Total National Export | 12.70 | 11.08 | 10.78 | 10.70 |

* 4th Advance Estimates as on 19.07.2007

\# Million Bales of 170 Kg each

**'Free Range' poultry**

1389. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any incentive scheme or promotional assistance for producing 'Free Range' poultry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have noted the enormous demand for high quality 'Free Range' poultry in the European Union and elsewhere;

(d) whether small farmers and women could be encouraged to raise 'Free Range' poultry to supplement their income; and

(e) the steps proposed by Government to encourage the small and unorganized poultry sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing a